

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Canners to Make Canned Foods Week Decision

Within the next three weeks every canner in the United States will be given an opportunity to pledge his support to the 1927 Canned Foods Week campaign.

The National Committee needs the help of every canner to put the campaign across. The industry needs the campaign to help relieve the present situation. Machinery and supply firms are ready to do their share. Distributors are eager to cooperate in the work.

It rests with the canners to make the decision whether or not the industry shall this year have the benefit of a big, successful Canned Foods Week to make its products better known and more widely sold.

Lithographers Help Eliminate Misleading Caution Notices

That lithographers are cooperating with the Association in its efforts to eliminate from canned food labels such misleading phrases as "Empty contents of this can immediately on opening," is evidenced by a letter received from one firm, which tells how the matter is being handled this year. The letter states:

"Wherever any labels are taken from our files of sample labels and submitted to a customer this year, in which labels an 'empty contents' clause appears, we have the same blocked out,

i. e., crossed out or patched out or otherwise removed, and direct the customer's attention to the fact the use of such a clause is prejudicial to and misrepresentative of the product; that the use of such a clause does disparage the merchandise.

"Or if customers themselves accompany their order to us with copy labels from earlier and previous productions in which this 'empty contents' clause appears, we in turn on receipt of such copies, notify customer as above.

"No labels are being produced with this 'empty contents' clause except in the event that customer should be so unwise as to insist on the reading being retained."

The National Canners Association has repeatedly called attention to the harm that is done in the minds of canned foods consumers by the use of so-called caution notices, and at their meeting during the Atlantic City convention the Association of Canners' State Secretaries adopted a resolution condemning the use of such phrases and requesting that the matter be brought to the attention of lithographers making canned food labels.

Association's Secretary Returns From Europe

To Members of the National Canners Association:

The European trip is over. What it may mean to the industry can best be appraised by the canners themselves. There are more than three hundred million of people "over there" to be fed and despite the advancement of science they still eat nature's foods.

As canning means only a method of keeping these foods so that they can be used both in and out of seasonal production, the opportunity is there and our advanced methods should insure our share.

A full report will be made to the Board of Directors at the meeting on May 26.

FRANK E. GORRELL.

Cuba Postpones Shippers' Invoice Requirement

The requirement that shippers to Cuba of goods dutiable at ad valorem rates of duty present to Cuban Consulates with their consular invoices the original sworn manufacturer's invoice, which was to have become effective on April 20, has been indefinitely postponed, according to advices received by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Hearings on Western Class Rates

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced that further hearings in the Western Trunk Line Class Rates, and cases being heard therewith, will be held as follows: May 11, Fargo, N. Dakota; May 16, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; May 21, Omaha, Nebraska; May 23, Lincoln, Nebraska; June 1, Denver, Colorado; June 20, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Bulletin on Rootstocks for Cherries

The results of experiments with Mazzard and Mahaleb rootstocks for cherries conducted at the Geneva, N. Y., Experiment Station are set out in Bulletin No. 544 of that Station. The experiments, covering fourteen seasons, show that Mazzard is the better stock on which to grow all three groups of cherries. At the end of 14 years nearly all of the trees on Mazzard stock are alive and vigorous, while less than half of those on Mahaleb are living and most of these are lacking in vigor. Sweet and Duke cherries and most sour cherries bloom earlier on Mahaleb stock, but the time of maturity and the size of the fruit varies little or not at all on the two stocks. Trees on Mazzard, because much larger, are much more productive.

Spanish Canned Fish Shipments

In 1926 Spain exported to the various American countries canned fish to the value of about \$4,000,000. Following is a list of the more important shipments: Argentina, \$1,542,757; Cuba, \$847,455; Brazil, \$331,720; Mexico, \$303,518; United States, \$260,420; Venezuela, \$221,627; Chile, \$158,461; Other countries, \$259,746.

Carload Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has published as Statistical Bulletin No. 19 the "Carload shipments of fruits and vegetables from stations in the United States" for the calendar years 1924 and 1925. There is listed for each commodity the number of cars billed from every station handling ten or more cars in either year, grouped by states and counties. The information was compiled from reports furnished monthly to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by station agencies, railroads, express and boat lines. Copies of the publication may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, at 15 cents each.

Bulletin on Corn Borer Situation

A circular intended to inform corn growers concerning the details of the corn borer situation and to recommend control procedure for the spring work has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Miscellaneous Circular No. 104 under the title "Spread and Infestation by the European Corn Borer During 1926."

Cabbage Maggot Control

The cabbage maggot is effectively controlled either by growing the young cabbage plants under a cheesecloth screen or by applying corrosive sublimate about the base of the young plants, according to entomologists at the Geneva, N. Y., Experiment Station, where the pest has been a subject of study for some time. Heavy applications of tobacco dust will also check the maggot, but the treatment is probably too costly for practical purposes. Detailed information on the screening method and the corrosive sublimate method is given in Circular No. 76 issued by the Geneva Station.

Alaskan Fish Output Increasing

In 1926, persons engaged in Alaska fisheries numbered 28,052, the investment was \$74,557,522, and the value of the products as marketed was \$54,669,882, or \$14,631,137 more than in 1925 according to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. Detailed figures are presented in the Bureau's Statistical Bulletin No. 741.

Car Loadings Decline

Loading of revenue freight for the week ended April 23 totaled 955,215 cars, a decrease of 17,943 cars under the corresponding week last year and a decrease of 5,971 cars under the corresponding week in 1925. These decreases were due principally to the flood along the Mississippi River as well as the strike of bituminous miners.

New Method of Patent Appeals Established

A change in office practice in the United States Patent Office which will result in an important simplification of procedure was inaugurated on Monday, May 2, with the establishment of the reorganized Board of Patent Appeals, as provided by an act of the last Congress. This Board functions as the single patent appellate tribunal of the Patent Office and replaces the dual method of appeal formerly practiced.

The two appellate bodies formerly existing in the patent office necessitated two pleadings of the case, two decisions and double preparation for the hearings. Moreover, a period of one year could elapse between the appeals. This procedure has now been virtually cut in half, while another salient feature of the new act reduces the period of time in which the appeal must be made to six months.

March Export Trade

Export trade in canned foods during March showed increased shipments of canned vegetables, fruits and meat, while there were decreases in other products. The figures as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

	March, 1926		March, 1927	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,629,044	\$549,077	1,724,355	\$606,068
Beef	273,539	110,607	306,195	79,880
Sausage	339,098	107,959	449,358	140,530
Condensed milk	3,641,881	582,271	2,974,428	467,272
Evaporated milk	7,857,911	830,152	6,231,874	631,773
Canned vegetables, total	3,728,772	352,538	5,044,412	468,987
Canned fruits, total	8,475,691	881,900	16,858,364	1,565,130
Apricots	740,235	73,720	1,392,803	138,451
Peaches	2,448,417	249,962	4,440,663	388,015
Pears	1,914,850	225,837	5,155,516	507,379
Pineapples	1,883,056	169,576	2,151,060	219,727
Salmon	3,591,558	590,062	3,563,414	524,526
Sardines	15,090,484	1,242,723	10,361,951	912,934

Canned Food Import Trade

In a review of the import trade in canned foods during 1926, which appeared in Commerce Reports for May 2, it is stated that no very unusual changes took place. The situation with regard to canned vegetables continues to be of importance, however, and the review gives considerable attention to the tomato trade.

"In the case of tomatoes," the article states, "labor costs in Italy, the chief source of supply, are very much lower than in the United States. In the canning of tomatoes the amount of hand labor is high compared with that required in the canning of most of the other vegetables. This is due to the necessity of trimming, coring, and peeling by hand. In reports received from Italy it has been stated that the usual pay for unskilled male labor in the tomato canneries is equivalent to about 40 cents a day. This daily wage is approximately the equal to the hourly pay for similar labor in American factories. As the

prices of raw material are, on the average, about equal in the United States and Italy, the lower cost of Italian production can be attributed almost entirely to the lower labor costs. Although the Italian production was poor during the past year on account of an apprehension that United States import duties would be raised, an amount larger than might be expected was exported to the United States. Had the domestic market in the United States been stronger, even larger quantities might have been offered for entry.

"Tomato paste, also received from Italy, has shown a slight decrease, but the quantity is still very large, being almost twice that imported in 1924. With regard to labor and other production costs, the same factors apply to tomato paste as to canned tomatoes. The existence of somewhat strict sanitary standards for tomato paste necessitates the production of a special pack in Italy for shipment to this country, as the common Italian pack will not pass the United States requirements. On account of the adoption of American methods and machinery, the canning industry of Italy is becoming much more efficient and is likely to become a still stronger competitor of American canned foods, both at home and abroad."

The review concludes with the statement that "taking the trade as a whole, with the exception of Italian tomato products and a few other minor items, American producers have no serious competition and the general situation can be considered quite satisfactory."

Tomato Products Imports in March

Imports of canned tomatoes and tomato paste for March, 1927, were smaller than during the corresponding month in the two preceding years. The value per pound of both canned tomatoes and tomato paste imported in March of this year was higher than in March, 1926. Following are the figures on imports during March of the last three years as compiled by the Department of Commerce:

	Pounds	Value
Canned tomatoes:		
1925	5,244,304	\$250,153
1926	5,368,369	266,899
1927	4,733,297	265,520
Tomato paste:		
1925	1,909,244	160,836
1926	1,526,730	135,030
1927	1,287,965	121,256

Milk Consumption Increases

The per capita consumption of milk and cream in the United States during 1926, is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to have been 55.3 gallons as compared with 54.75 gallons in 1925 and 43 gallons in 1920. These figures are based on a survey of 373 cities with a total population of 39,000,000 people.

Sales Agreements in Foreign Trade

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has issued a bulletin on "Exclusive Sales Agreements in Foreign Trade," the purpose of which is to analyze some of the major difficulties in the operation of such agreements. The book, it is stated, is to serve as a guide to the adoption of means for the protection of the exporter and importer under the exclusive distribution methods and will settle doubts as to the extent to which legal restrictions may be imposed by foreign countries on exclusive sales agencies. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, for ten cents each.

Tomato Acreage and Indicated Pack

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics under date of May 3 issued a statement on the intended acreage of tomatoes for manufacture for 1927 as indicated by the per cent of increase or decrease compared with last year, also the indicated per cent to be packed as compared with last year.

According to this statement, based on reports from 424 firms representing 55 per cent of the acreage grown for manufacture in 1926, there is indicated a decrease in acreage amounting to 7 per cent. However, these same firms show an intention to increase the pack of 1927 by 16 per cent over that of 1926.

The Bureau's statement says that "while a decrease in acreage and an increase in pack do not appear logical, it is to be considered that the yield per acre for the United States was the lowest in 1926 it has been since 1918, with the exception of the year 1919 when the yield per acre was the same as in 1926—3.8 tons per acre. It might well be, therefore, that with an average yield of 4.5 tons the pack of 1926 might be exceeded."

